

10/506,850

MC-MRD-P4

Art Unit: 3651 – Ex. Bidwell, James

Response to Office Action mailed September 14, 2006

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for transferring flowable particulate material from one station to another, comprising:

(i) a carrier for the material, and

(ii) means externally of the carrier for moving the carrier between said stations,

(iii) a tube,

(iv) the carrier being mounted in said tube externally of which said moving means is mounted,

(v) the arrangement being such that the carrier and the means are not being connected mechanically for movement of the carrier, the carrier comprising magnetic properties and said external movement means comprising a magnet and magnet moving means, and

(vi) further including sensors disposed about said tube for determining the position of the carrier therein.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 14 ~~16~~, wherein the tube housing providing provides a guide for guiding ~~the~~ travel of the carrier.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 14 ~~16~~, ~~the housing providing~~ wherein the tube provides a guide for guiding travel of the movement means.

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19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 18 ~~14~~, wherein the tube is adapted for passing fluid thereinto ~~into the housing~~ for cleaning the internal surfaces thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~14~~ 21, wherein the fluid is a liquid.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) Material handling apparatus comprising a first station and a second station and apparatus according to claim 14 for transferring flowable particulate material from the one station to the other.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring flowable particulate material from one station to another comprising the use of apparatus according to claim 14 ~~1~~.